

# W5YI

Nation's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

## REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

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## Novice Operators Obtain All 1.25 Meter Band Access

The Federal Communications Commission has adopted Rules which create a small subband at 222.00-222.15 MHz for experimental work where repeaters are prohibited. In addition, the FCC has authorized frequency privileges for Novice operators in the entire 1.25 meter (222-225 MHz) band. The FCC declined, however, to adopt proposed rules that would have allowed Novice Class operators to own and operate repeaters in the 1.25 m and 23 cm bands. The action was taken at the November 19th Commission meeting but not released to the public until November 30th.

The new rules are in response to three petitions filed last year by the amateur community seeking unrelated frequency privilege changes in the 222-225 MHz ham band. The FCC issued a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* on November 30, 1992, which looked toward:

- (1) creating a small new subband where repeaters would be prohibited;
- (2) authorizing frequency privileges to the Novice Class operators in the entire band; and
- (3) permitting Novice Class operators to be licensees and control operators of repeaters in the 1.25 meter band as well as in the 1270-1295 MHz segment of the 23 cm (1240-1300 MHz) band.

### **Weak signal segment**

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL)

requested in RM-7869 that a new subband be designated at 222.000-222.15 MHz where repeaters would be prohibited, but where all other types of station operation could continue. It said a small segment is needed for weak signal experimentation that would not be shared with repeaters. While many amateurs believe that this matter should be decided by local frequency coordinators, the ARRL argued that protection from repeater interference cannot be assured other than by regulation.

### **Novices accorded entire 1.25 m band privileges**

ARRL also asked in RM-7868 that the frequency privileges accorded Novice operators be expanded to include the entire 222-225 MHz band. The League said Novice Class operators would benefit from such expansion because they would be exposed to routine types of amateur station operation other than repeater operation. More than 100,000 amateurs now hold the Novice Class operator license.

### **Novice repeater licensees, control operators**

In a petition assigned RM-7888, Dr. Michael C. Trahos, KB4PGC, of Falls Church, Virginia, requested that Novice Class operators be authorized to be licensees and control operators of repeaters in the 222-225 MHz band and in the 1270-1295 MHz Novice subband of the 1240-1300 MHz (23 cm) band. He feels that the amateur



service should follow the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and the Private Land Mobile Radio Services (PLMRS) where licensees are authorized to be licensees of repeaters without even being required to pass an examination in proper repeater operation.

Section §97.503 requires each written examination be such as to prove that the examinee possesses the operational and technical qualifications necessary to perform properly the duties associated with the privileges of the class of license sought. Trahos acknowledged, however, that a GMRS licensee must be 18 years of age or older.

Trahos also asked that the privileges requested be conditioned upon the use of "commercial equipment" and low transmitter power limits. The FCC said, however, that "The [commercial equipment provision] is not feasible because amateur VHF and UHF repeater transmitters are not subject to the Commission's type acceptance program. The low power limits requested by Trahos, moreover, are those already required in Section §97.313(d)&(e) "...which limits Novice operators to 25 W PEP on the VHF 1.25 meter band and 5 W PEP on the UHF 23 cm band."

## Notice of Proposed Rule Making adopted

The Commission said in the NPRM that it believed there was merit in these three petitions and asked for comments on the proposed rule changes. "They offer improvements in the operational standards for the amateur service. The availability of a small protected subband at 222.0-222.15 would facilitate experimentation. Permitting Novice Class operators to be licensees and control operators of repeaters and authorizing them additional frequency privileges would provide an opportunity for Novice Class operators to become proficient in a wide variety of amateur service operations. They would also have more flexibility in selecting the mode of transmission. Choosing the appropriate mode would result in a more efficient use of available spectrum. The public comment period closed on February 23, 1993. Replies: a month later

## Report and Order issued

The FCC adopted the proposed rules establishing the subband and authorized Novice operation in the entire 1.25 m band. The Commission did not go along, however, with its earlier proposal which would permit Novices to be control operators and licensees of repeaters in the 1.25 and 23 cm bands. The effective date of the new rules is February 1, 1994.

## Protected 1.25 m subband

The FCC received many comments both favoring and opposing the creation of a small subband for

experimentation at 222.00-222.15 MHz where repeaters would not be allowed. Advocates of such a subband believe that it is essential to their operations to be protected from repeater transmissions which are primarily for operational purposes, rather than experimental. The FCC agreed that it is undisputed that experimental communications and repeater transmissions are incompatible because of the lengthy periods of channel occupancy by a repeater.

Those favoring the proposal contend that the technical challenges of experimentation best serve the basic purposes of the amateur service to advance the art of radio and to provide opportunities for improving communications and technical skills. The American Radio Relay League strongly supported the subband and said that "...it is necessary to create by rule, rather than to rely on voluntary repeater coordination, because of the need for uniformity of the subband nationwide and because there is no enforcement authority for the band-planning decisions of a volunteer coordinating body."

On the other hand, rivals of the subband proposal rejected the mandatory segment where repeaters would be disallowed. They believe that each local area should be allowed to provide its own band plan specifying different modes of operation to accommodate local needs. Several commenters located in California oppose a subband for experimentation at 222.00-222.15 MHz arguing that they would lose their ability to communicate with users in Nevada. They request that the proposed subband be established at 222.00-222.13 MHz rather than as proposed in order to permit their auxiliary operations to continue on a channel at 222.14 MHz.

In the *Report and Order* released December 2nd, the FCC said they "...have considered carefully the comments for and against establishing a protected subband. In our view, the public interest requires that there be sufficient opportunities available for experimental activities. Further, it is not feasible to rely on local frequency coordinating bodies to assure that all types of amateur service operations will be accommodated. In this instance, we agree with the ARRL that it is desirable that there be a uniform, nationwide subband where experimental operations can take place unaffected by repeater use. We regret that there may be some disruption in the activities of some repeater and auxiliary stations. We would be remiss, however, if we failed to provide the protection requested for experimental activities."

## Novice Class operator privileges

Currently Novice class operators are authorized in ITU Region 2 (our hemisphere) to (Continued: Page 9)



## APPLICATION FORM 610 FOR AMATEUR OPERATOR/PRIMARY STATION LICENSE

SECTION 1 - TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT (See instructions)				
1. Print or type last name		Suffix	First name	Middle initial
3. Mailing address (Number and street)		City	State code	2. Date of birth ____ - ____ - ____ month day year
4. I HEREBY APPLY FOR (make an X in the appropriate box(es)):				
4A. <input type="checkbox"/> EXAMINATION for a new license		4D. <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE my mailing address on my license to my new address in Item 3		
4B. <input type="checkbox"/> EXAMINATION for upgrade of my operator license class		4E. <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE my station call sign systematically (See instructions) Applicant's Initials _____		
4C. <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE my name on my license to my new name in Item 1. My former name was: _____ (Last name) (Suffix) (First name) (MI)		4F. <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL of my license		
5. Unless you are requesting a new license, attach the original or a photocopy of your license to the back of this Form 610 and complete Items 5A and 5B.		5A. Call sign shown on license		5B. Operator class shown on license
6. Would an FCC grant of your request be an action that may have a significant environmental effect? <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES (Attach required statement)</span>				
7. If you have filed another Form 610 that we have not acted upon, complete Items 7A and 7B.		7A. Purpose of other form		7B. Date filed ____ - ____ - ____ month day year
WILLFUL FALSE STATEMENTS MADE ON THIS FORM ARE PUNISHABLE BY FINE AND/OR IMPRISONMENT, (U.S. CODE, TITLE 18, SECTION 1001), AND/OR REVOCATION OF ANY STATION LICENSE OR CONSTRUCTION PERMIT (U.S. CODE, TITLE 47, SECTION 312(A)(1)) AND/OR FORFEITURE (U.S. CODE, TITLE 47, SECTION 503).				
I CERTIFY THAT ALL STATEMENTS AND ATTACHMENTS ARE TRUE, COMPLETE, AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF AND ARE MADE IN GOOD FAITH; THAT I AM NOT A REPRESENTATIVE OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT; THAT I WAIVE ANY CLAIM TO THE USE OF ANY PARTICULAR FREQUENCY REGARDLESS OF PRIOR USE BY LICENSE OR OTHERWISE; AND THAT THE STATION TO BE LICENSED WILL BE INACCESSIBLE TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS.				
8. Signature of applicant (Do not print, type, or stamp.) (Must match name in Item 1.)  X _____				9. Date signed ____ - ____ - ____ month day year
SECTION 2 - TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ADMINISTERING VE's				
A. Applicant is qualified for operator license class:  <input type="checkbox"/> NOVICE (Elements 1(A), 1(B), or 1(C) and 2) <input type="checkbox"/> TECHNICIAN (Elements 2 and 3(A)) <input type="checkbox"/> TECHNICIAN PLUS (Elements 1(A), 1(B), or 1(C), 2 and 3(A)) <input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL (Elements 1(B) or 1(C), 2, 3(A) and 3(B)) <input type="checkbox"/> ADVANCED (Elements 1(B) or 1(C), 2, 3(A), 3(B) and 4(A)) <input type="checkbox"/> AMATEUR EXTRA (Elements 1(C), 2, 3(A), 3(B), 4(A) and 4(B))			B. VEC receipt date:	
C. Name of Volunteer-Examiner Coordinator (VEC):				
D. Date of VEC coordinated examination session:		E. Examination session location:		
<b>I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE COMPLIED WITH THE ADMINISTERING VE REQUIREMENTS IN PART 97 OF THE COMMISSION'S RULES AND WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY THE COORDINATING VEC AND THE FCC</b>				
1st VE's name (Print First, MI, Last, Suffix)		VE's station call sign		VE's signature (must match name)
2nd VE's name (Print First, MI, Last, Suffix)		VE's station call sign		VE's signature (must match name)
3rd VE's name (Print First, MI, Last, Suffix)		VE's station call sign		VE's signature (must match name)
				Date signed
				Date signed
				Date signed



ATTACH ORIGINAL OR A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR LICENSE HERE:

**SECTION 3 - TO BE COMPLETED BY PHYSICIAN**

**PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATION  
OF DISABILITY**

Please see notice below

Print, type, or stamp physician's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP code: \_\_\_\_\_

Office telephone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I CERTIFY THAT I have read the Notice to Physician Certifying to a Disability, and that the person named in Item 1 on the reverse is severely handicapped, the duration of which will extend for more than 365 days beyond this date. Because of this severe handicap, this person is unable to pass a 13 or 20 words per minute telegraphy examination. I am licensed to practice in the United States or its Territories as a doctor of medicine (M.D.) or doctor of osteopathy (D.O.). I have considered the accommodations that could be made for this person's disability and have determined that, even with accommodations, this person would be unable to pass a 13 or 20 words per minute telegraphy examination.

**WILLFUL FALSE STATEMENT IS PUNISHABLE BY FINE AND IMPRISONMENT (U.S. CODE TITLE 18, SECTION 1001)**



\_\_\_\_\_  
PHYSICIAN'S SIGNATURE (DO NOT PRINT, TYPE, OR STAMP)

\_\_\_\_\_  
M.D. or D.O.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE SIGNED

**PATIENT'S RELEASE**

Authorization is hereby given to the physician named above, who participated in my care, to release to the Federal Communications Commission any medical information deemed necessary to process my application for an amateur operator/primary station license.



\_\_\_\_\_  
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE (DO NOT PRINT, TYPE, OR STAMP)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE SIGNED

**NOTICE TO PHYSICIAN CERTIFYING TO A DISABILITY**

You are being asked by a person who has already passed a 5 words per minute telegraphy examination to certify that, because of a severe handicap, he/she is unable to pass a 13 or 20 words per minute telegraphy examination. If you sign the certification, the person will be exempt from the examination. Before you sign the certification, please consider the following:

**THE REASON FOR THE EXAMINATION** - Telegraphy is a method of electrical communication that the Amateur Radio Service community strongly desires to preserve. We support their objective by authorizing additional operating privileges to amateur operators who increase their skill to 13 and 20 words per minute. Normally, to attain these levels of skill, intense practice is required. Annually, thousands of amateur operators prove by passing examinations that they have acquired the skill. These examinations are prepared and administered by amateur operators in the local community who volunteer their time and effort.

**THE EXAMINATION PROCEDURE** - The volunteer examiners (VEs) send a short message in the Morse code. The examinee must decipher a series of audible dots and dashes into 43 different alphabetic, numeric and punctuation characters used in the message. To pass, the examinee must correctly answer questions about the content of the message. Usually, a fill-in-the-blanks format is used. With your certification, they will give the person credit for passing the examination, even though they do not administer it.

**MUST A PERSON WITH A HANDICAP SEEK EXEMPTION?**

No handicapped person is required to request exemption from the higher speed telegraphy examinations, nor is anyone denied the opportunity to take the examinations because of a handicap. There is available to all otherwise qualified persons, handicapped or not, the Technician Class operator license that does not require passing a telegraphy examination. Because of international regulations, however, any handicapped applicant requesting exemption from the 13 or 20 words per minute examination must have passed the 5 words per minute examination.

**ACCOMMODATING A HANDICAPPED PERSON** - Many handicapped persons accept and benefit from the personal challenge of passing the examination in spite of their hardships. For handicapped persons without an exemption who have difficulty in proving that they can decipher messages sent in the Morse code, the VEs make exceptionally accommodative arrangements. They will adjust the tone in frequency and volume to suit the examinee. They will administer the examination at a place convenient and comfortable to the examinee, even at bedside. For a deaf person, they will send the dots and dashes to a vibrating surface or flashing light. They will write the examinee's dictation. Where warranted, they will pause in sending the message after each sentence, each phrase, each word, or each character to allow the examinee additional time to absorb and interpret what was sent. They will even allow the examinee to send the message, rather than receive it.

**YOUR DECISION** - The VEs rely upon you to make the necessary medical determination for them using your professional judgement. You are being asked to decide if the person's handicap is so severe that he/she cannot pass the examination even when the VEs employ their accommodative procedures. The impairment, moreover, will last more than one year. This procedure is not intended to exempt a person who simply wants to avoid expending the effort necessary to acquire greater skill in telegraphy. The person requesting that you sign the certification will give you names and addresses of VEs and other amateur operators in your community who can provide you with more information on this matter.

**DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS** - If you decide to execute the certification, you should complete and sign the Physician's Certification of Disability on the person's FCC Form 610. You must be an M.D. or D.O. licensed to practice in the United States or its Territories. The person must sign a release permitting disclosure to the FCC of the medical information pertaining to the disability.



## NEW FCC FORM 610 TO DEBUT IN EARLY 1994

As you can see, we are enclosing a copy of the new **FCC Form 610 Amateur Radio Operator/Station License Application** which is to be used in conjunction with the new FCC computer and amateur licensing software. We understand the new system will be coming on-line sometime within the next 90 days.

The change-over date to the new Form 610 has not been firmed up, however, since the software is not yet complete. Also one of the FCC's key programmers got promoted and has left the project. This new application form, therefore, may **NOT** be used before the FCC announces the beginning date which, according to Gettysburg sources, should be somewhere between February 1 and April 1, 1994. **AGAIN, DO NOT USE THIS FORM YET!** We will keep you posted as to when use of the new application becomes mandatory.

Unlike previous Form 610 revisions, the current (March 1992) version can not be accepted by the FCC once the new amateur licensing system is in place since the information requested and record format is somewhat different. The new form will be used by both the *VEC Examining System* and licensed amateurs who wish to modify or renew their existing license. Other than a routine renewal, the only modifications permitted will be to change an applicant's name, mailing address or call sign.

VEs will be interested to learn that the three rows of boxes indicating examination elements credited and passed are being discontinued. It will now be the responsibility of the VE team to simply check the new license box that the examinee has qualified for. VEs must still attach the supporting credit documents and answer sheets equalling the element requirements for that license when submitting the application to their coordinating VEC.

Also note that the FCC will begin issuing "Technician Plus" licenses. The FCC is in the process of entering the currently VEC maintained database of applicants who have qualified for Technician Plus by passing a Morse code test into their system. We assume that all Tech Plus amateurs will eventually be sent a license document indicating this class.

The amateur community can also assume that there will be no immediate changes to the current six class lineup of amateur radio licenses. It has simply taken too much time, effort and government resources to develop this new system.

VECs will eventually be able to file amateur radio Form 610 applications electronically (i.e. computer-to-computer over the phone lines) with the FCC in Gettysburg. VECs will simply call up what amounts to a computer bulletin board in Gettysburg to transfer their FCC Form 610 Application records. It will greatly speed up license issuance. (Testing begins next Spring)

## OCTOBER AMATEUR LICENSING STATISTICS

<u>October</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	
New Amateurs:					
New Novices	1457	1070	456	154	
New Tech's	<u>283</u>	<u>3354</u>	<u>1548</u>	<u>2550</u>	
<b>Total New:</b>	<b>1826</b>	<b>4501</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2754</b>	
<b><u>Upgrading:</u></b>					
Novices	1456	1073	312	373	
Technicians	810	*883	*364	*754	
Generals	620	527	235	515	
Advanced	<u>325</u>	<u>398</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>300</u>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3211</b>	<b>2891</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>1942</b>	
<b><u>Renewals:</u></b>					
Total Renew:	63	52	63	607	
Novices	9	5	9	28	
<b><u>Purged:</u></b>					
Total Dropped:	1922	41	12	15	
Novices	977	22	0	0	
<b><u>Census:</u></b>					
<b>Indiv. Oper.</b>	<b>495166</b>	<b>536532</b>	<b>582829</b>	<b>628727</b>	
Change/Year	+28195	+41366	+46297	+45798	
<b><u>Individual Operators by Class:</u></b> (and % of total)					
<b><u>Extra</u></b>	<b><u>Advan.</u></b>	<b><u>General</u></b>	<b><u>Technic.</u></b>	<b><u>Novice</u></b>	<b><u>Total:</u></b>
<b><u>October 1990</u></b>					
53219	104771	119393	126050	91733	<b>495166</b>
10.7%	21.2%	24.1%	25.5%	18.5%	100.0%
<b><u>October 1991</u></b>					
56954	107370	122301	153514	96393	<b>536532</b>
10.6%	20.1%	23.0%	28.2%	18.1%	100.0%
<b><u>October 1992</u></b>					
60852	109683	124834	188749	98713	<b>582829</b>
10.5%	18.8%	21.4%	32.4%	16.9%	100.0%
<b><u>October 1993</u></b>					
64869	112512	127717	223962	100267	<b>628727</b>
10.3%	17.9%	20.3%	35.6%	15.9%	100.0%
Club/ RACES & Military:	(1990) <u>2434</u>	(1991) <u>2431</u>	(1992) <u>2431</u>	(1993) <u>2450</u>	
<b>Total Active:</b>	<b>497600</b>	<b>538963</b>	<b>585260</b>	<b>631177</b>	
% Increase	+6.0%	+8.3%	+8.6%	+7.8%	

(\* = Does not include Technicians upgrading to Tech Plus)

## AMATEURS BY CALL SIGN GROUP:

Group	Extra	Advan.	General	Technic.	Novice	Total
A	36445	682	249	7	0	37383
B	4344	29963	54	6	1	34368
C	14906	44600	67768	97130	47	224451
D	8928	37151	58939	126758	130217	331993
Other	246	116	107	61	2	532
<b>Total</b>	<b>64869</b>	<b>112512</b>	<b>127717</b>	<b>223962</b>	<b>100267</b>	<b>628727</b>

[Group "A" = 2X1 & 2X2; "B" = 2X2; "C" = 1X3 "D" = 2X3 format.]

[Source: FCC Licensing Facility, Gettysburg, PA]



• The FCC Commissioners have a meeting scheduled this coming Thursday (December 16) at which time they are scheduled to consider an implementation proposal on the issuance of **Amateur Vanity Call Signs**.

Although we have not seen the *Sunshine Meeting Agenda*, we believe this matter will be part of a broader rule-making designed to implement all Regulatory Fees authorized by Congress. Congress surprisingly added personalized ham call signs to the list of *Annual Regulatory Fees* for which the FCC could access an annual charge.

The fee is designed to reimburse the government for costs "...attributable to the Commission's policy and rule-making actions, as well as its enforcement, user information and international activities."

The fees apply to licensees that financially benefit from FCC regulatory activities. Government and non-profit licensees (including amateur radio operators) were exempted on that basis.

The schedule of (Private Radio) **Annual Regulatory Fees** includes a \$7 per year fee for Marine (ship/coast), GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service), Aviation (aircraft/ground), and most Land Mobile stations. In addition, Commercial Radio Operator licenses (including Restricted Permits which do not require an examination) and **Amateur Vanity Call Signs** carry the annual \$7 fee. [Certain Land Mobile (220-222 MHz and above 470 MHz), Microwave and IVDS (Interactive Video Data Service) licensees will have to pay an annual \$16 fee.]

The legislation requires the Commission to collect "small" fees in advance for a full license term. That probably means that ham operator selected call signs will cost \$70 for a ten year term. There is a provision in the legislation that allows the FCC authority to periodically review the statutory fee schedule and to adjust the fees to reflect changes in its appropriation from year to year. These "adjustments" could be accomplished based on changes in the CPI - Consumer Price Index.

It is our understanding that primary ham call signs will still be systematically issued by the FCC. The "vanity" call sign will become an authorized secondary call sign.

A *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* will be adopted shortly "...[spelling] out specific procedures concerning collec-

tion methodologies, payment schedules and penalties. Actual fee collection is not expected to begin until April 1, 1994." That quote is from a recent *Public Notice* entitled "FCC to implement Regulatory Fees." This rulemaking is on a fast track and an extremely short public comment period, maybe as short as two weeks, will be authorized.

There is also another (\$35 - but could be increased) "processing" fee already in existence which covers administrative costs associated with license issuance *when an applicant is not examined for a license*.

After April 1st, Commercial Radio examinees and licensees will have to pay two fees: Either a (COLEM determined) examination fee and a Regulatory fee (\$35 for a 5-year term license) if applying for a new license - or a (\$35 or \$40) Processing and (\$35) Regulatory Fee (total \$70 or \$75) if renewing or replacing an existing license.

Confusing the matter is that two Commercial Radio Operator licenses (the *General Radiotelephone Operator License* - GROL - and the *Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit* - RP - are lifetime licenses.) No one at this point seems to know how much their regulatory fee will be since the fee is based on \$7 per year. The fee situation should become clear we believe once the NPRM is issued.

It is our understanding that the so-called "Section 8" Regulatory and "Section 9" Processing fees technically go to the General Treasury Fund - but that the FCC (in effect) gets a budget credit for them. In other words, the Commission indirectly gets the money.

There is certainly a lot of conjecture and confusion concerning "fees" at this point.

• Two more astronauts, **Charles F. Bolden, Jr., (Commander)** and **Ronald M. Sega (Mission Specialist)** have passed their *No-Code Technician* amateur radio operator license requirements at a W5YI-VEC coordinated test session held in Houston, Texas, on November 26th. They are due to lift off aboard the Space Shuttle Discover on January 27, 1994 from Cape Kennedy. STS-60 is the first joint U.S. and Russian science mission. Aboard that flight will also be Sergei Krikalev, a licensed Russian amateur and previous cosmonaut who spent two periods aboard the Russian Mir space station operating as U5MIR.

Hopefully, Bolden and Sega will

get their license in time - otherwise there will be no SAREX (Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment) operation aboard STS-60 since none of the other three astronauts holds a U.S. ham ticket and no reciprocal operating agreement exists between Russia and the U.S. [We Federal Expressed the Form 610 application paperwork to Gettysburg along with a letter pleading for expedited handling.]

• **Reed Hundt was sworn in by Vice President Al Gore as FCC Chairman** on Nov. 29th. His confirmation had been held up some two months. Hundt is already on record as supporting access by the public to the networks of America. He also is interested in learning how the principles of reinventing government should apply to the FCC and how to make it more responsive.

A PC has been installed in the chairman's office so that people can send him electronic mail and he plans to get on the Internet. He supports a more simplified regulatory scheme.

FCC Commissioner Ervin Dugan said he will leave the FCC next month to head the Public Broadcasting Service. That makes two seats now vacant on the Commission. Supposedly San Francisco communications attorney, Rachelle Chong, will get one of them.

• According to Carole Perry, WB2MGP, the **Dayton '94 HamVention Youth Forum** will be bigger and better than ever! Preparations are already underway to interview speakers for this important forum. Any youngster under the age of 18 who is a licensed ham operator may be considered. Applicants should be articulate and enthusiastic about their amateur radio activities.

Each child will be allowed ten minutes to address what is hoped will be an audience filled with young people who have come to hear what their peers have to say about amateur radio. In the past, many youngsters have gone on to get licensed after being motivated by the terrific young speakers who have conveyed the fun and enjoyment to be had in radio.

Interested children should send a brief outline of their radio activities to: **Carole Perry, P.O. Box 131646, Staten Island, NY 10314**. Please include a phone number.



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION FORM 610 FOR AMATEUR OPERATOR/PRIMARY STATION LICENSE

(Do Not Return Instructions With Application Form)

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

● Use the attached FCC Form 610 to request:

1. An examination for a new amateur operator/primary station license or for modification of your license to a higher operator class.
2. A modification of your name or mailing address as it appears on your license, or a systematic assignment of a different call sign.
3. A renewal of your license if it is unexpired or if it expired within the two year grace period.

● Do NOT use the attached FCC Form 610 to request:

1. A Reciprocal Permit for Alien Amateur Licensee. Use FCC Form 610-A.
2. A renewal or modification of a club, military recreation, or RACES station license. Use FCC Form 610-B.

● **ANTENNA HEIGHT:** If the height of your antenna will exceed 61 meters (200 feet) or 1/100 of the minimum distance between the antenna site and any aircraft landing area (refer to Section 97.15) complete FCC Form 854 (Request for Antenna Height Clearance and Obstruction Marking and Lighting Specifications). Forms may be obtained from the Commission's Form Distribution Center, phone (202) 632- FORM.

● If you have not received a response from us within 90 days, write to Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. Include a photocopy of your completed FCC Form 610, or the following information:

1. Your name, address, and date of birth;
2. Your station call sign and operator class;
3. The date that you filed FCC Form 610;
4. The purpose of the FCC Form 610 you filed;
5. The name of the coordinating VEC;
6. The location of the test site (city and state) and the date of the examination.

● Every amateur operator should have a current copy of the amateur service rules, Part 97, which may be obtained from private publishers, vendors, or you may order 47 CFR, Part 80 to End from the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, phone (202) 783-3238.

● Detach your completed FCC Form 610 from these instructions. Make a photocopy of it for your records. File your completed FCC Form 610 with the VEs if you have marked Box 4A or 4B on the application. If you have marked box(es) 4C through 4F, mail FCC Form 610 WITHOUT A FEE to:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
1270 FAIRFIELD RD  
GETTYSBURG PA 17325-7245

### INSTRUCTIONS TO EXAMINEE

- A. Your examination will be administered at a location and time specified by your administering VEs. You must comply with their instructions. The VEs will observe you throughout the examination. They are responsible for the proper conduct and necessary supervision of the examination. They must immediately terminate the examination if you fail to comply with their instructions.
- B. If you hold an unexpired license, or if you hold a license that expired less than two years before the date of the examination session, attach a photocopy of it, or the original, to the application.
- C. Give your completed FCC Form 610 to your administering VEs. Show your VEs at least two documents that prove your identity. Show your VEs any of the following documents for which you are claiming element credit:
  1. Original document of your unexpired (or expired within the grace period) amateur operator/primary station license;
  2. Certificate(s) of Successful Completion of Examination, if issued to you within 365 days of this examination session;
  3. Photocopy of FCC Form 610 that was filed indicating that you qualified for a Novice Class operator license within 365 days of this examination session;
  4. Original document of your unexpired (or expired less than five years prior to this examination session) FCC Commercial Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO PERSONS WITH SEVERE HANDICAPS

- A. If you have passed the 5 words per minute telegraphy examination, but you are unable to pass the 13 or 20 words per minute examination because of a severe handicap that will extend for more than 365 days, the administering VEs will give you credit for passing the 20 words per minute examination if you obtain a Physician's Certification of Disability. You should, however, first attempt to pass the examination under the special accommodative procedures the VEs use for handicapped examinees.
- B. Detailed Instructions:
  1. Complete Items 1 through 9 on FCC Form 610.
  2. Present your physician with your completed FCC Form 610 and the Notice to Physician Certifying to a Disability.
  3. Provide the physician with the names and addresses of your administering VEs and other amateur operators in your community who can provide more information on this matter.
  4. Ask your physician to complete and sign the Physician's Certification of Disability in Section 3 of FCC Form 610.
  5. Sign and date the Patient's Release in Section 3 of FCC Form 610.
  6. Follow Instructions to Examinee.



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATION FORM 610

**ITEM 1** – Print (or type) your last name and any suffix (Jr., Sr., II, etc.), first name, and middle initial. The name you enter in Item 1 must agree with your signature in Item 8. It must also agree with the name on your existing license unless you request a change in Box 4C.

**ITEM 2** – Print numbers for the month, day, and year of your birth. Example: If you were born on September 20, 1944, enter 09-20-44.

**ITEM 3** – Print your mailing address. It must be an address where you can receive mail delivered by the United States Postal Service. (Mail delivery may not be available in certain territories.) Print your two-letter state/territory code from the table. For Midway Island, print its full name in the city box.

Alabama	AL	New Hampshire	NH
Alaska	AK	New Jersey	NJ
Arizona	AZ	New Mexico	NM
Arkansas	AR	New York	NY
California	CA	North Carolina	NC
Colorado	CO	North Dakota	ND
Connecticut	CT	Ohio	OH
Delaware	DE	Oklahoma	OK
District of Columbia	DC	Oregon	OR
Florida	FL	Pennsylvania	PA
Georgia	GA	Rhode Island	RI
Hawaii	HI	South Carolina	SC
Idaho	ID	South Dakota	SD
Illinois	IL	Tennessee	TN
Indiana	IN	Texas	TX
Iowa	IA	Utah	UT
Kansas	KS	Vermont	VT
Kentucky	KY	Virginia	VA
Louisiana	LA	Washington	WA
Maine	ME	West Virginia	WV
Maryland	MD	Wisconsin	WI
Massachusetts	MA	Wyoming	WY
Michigan	MI	American Samoa	AS
Minnesota	MN	Guam	GU
Mississippi	MS	Midway Island	UM
Missouri	MO	Northern Mariana Is	MP
Montana	MT	Puerto Rico	PR
Nebraska	NE	Virgin Islands	VI
Nevada	NV		

**ITEM 4** – Place an "X" in the proper box to apply for:

**BOX 4A** An EXAMINATION for a new amateur operator/primary station license. See Instructions to Examinee on reverse. You are eligible for an examination for a new license if you do not have one or if your license has expired beyond the two year grace period.

**BOX 4B** An EXAMINATION to upgrade your license to a higher class. See Instructions to Examinee on reverse.

**BOX 4C** CHANGE your name as it appears on your license to your new name in Item 1. Print your former name where indicated.

**BOX 4D** CHANGE your mailing address as it appears on your license to your new address in Item 3.

**BOX 4E** CHANGE your station call sign. See Fact Sheet PR-5000, Number 206, Amateur Station Call Sign Assignment System, latest date of issue, for information on how the call sign will be systematically assigned. After the call sign change is made, your previous call sign cannot be reinstated. Initial in the space provided.

**BOX 4F** RENEWAL of your unexpired license or RENEWAL of your license if it expired within the grace period. The expiration date must be within the two year grace period. Application must be received by the Commission's Gettysburg office prior to the end of the grace period.

**ITEM 5** – If your license document was lost or destroyed, attach to your FCC Form 610 a sheet of paper containing your explanation.

**ITEM 5A** – Print the call sign shown on your license.

**ITEM 5B** – Print the operator class shown on your license.

**ITEM 6** – If the construction of your station would be an action that is likely to have a significant environmental effect, mark "Yes" and attach to your FCC Form 610 an environmental assessment. Otherwise, mark "No". See the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R., Part 1, Subpart I, and Section 97.13 (a).

**ITEM 7** – If you have filed another Form 610 that we have not acted upon, give the purpose of the other form in Box 7A and print the month, day, and year it was filed in Box 7B.

**ITEM 8** – Sign your name. Your signature must agree with your name as printed in Item 1.

**ITEM 9** – Print the month, day, and year that you sign your application.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average ten minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to the Federal Communications Commission, Records Management Division, AMD-PIRS, Washington, DC 20554, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (3060-0003) Washington, DC 20503.

### NOTICE TO INDIVIDUALS REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 AND THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1980

The solicitation of personal information requested in this form is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. The Commission will use the information provided in this form to determine whether grant of this application is in the public interest. In reaching that decision, or for law enforcement purposes, it may become necessary to refer personal information contained in this form to another government agency. In addition, all information provided in this form, as well as the form itself, will be available for public inspection. If information requested on the form is not provided, processing of the application may be delayed or the application may be returned without action pursuant to Commission rules. The foregoing notice is required by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. Section 522a(e)(3).



(Continued from Page 2) transmit in the 222.10 to 223.91 MHz segment of the 1.25 m band. This essentially allows Novice operators to access the majority of 1.25 m repeater inputs while prohibiting operation on repeater outputs. While not intended, it also has the effect of precluding Novice packet operation at 223.40 MHz. (The 1.25 MHz band is not authorized to the amateur service outside of Region 2.)

The Commission noted that the proposal to expand the privileges of Novice Class operators to the entire 1.25 m band "...met with a very favorable response from most commenters. There was a general agreement that authorizing Novice Class operators additional frequency privileges will provide an opportunity for them to become proficient in a wider variety of amateur service operations. In addition, Novice Class operators will have more flexibility in selecting the mode of transmission that they want to use."

## Novice repeater control operators

The Commission noted a "...significant opposition to our proposal to permit Novice Class operators in the 1.25 m and 23 cm bands." The ARRL (and others) were concerned that the Element 2 (Novice) written examination does not require repeater knowledge whereas the Technician written Element 3(A) emphasizes VHF and higher frequency operation including repeaters.

The League also argued that "...because the codeless Technician Class operator license permits repeater operation and is more popular as an entry level license than the Novice Class operator license, there is no need now to expand Novice Class operator privileges to include repeater operation."

The FCC ruled "In view of the lack of substantial support by the amateur community for granting Novice Class operators the additional privileges of being repeater licensees and control operators in these two bands, we are persuaded that the rules in this respect should not be amended. The arguments in opposition have merit insofar as they concern the lack of knowledge that current Novice operators possess about repeater operation, and note that an alternate entry level license, the codeless Technician Class operator license, permits a holder of such a license to be a repeater licensee and control operator."

"In addition, if Novice Class operators were authorized the proposed repeater privileges, the written examination for the Novice license would need to be revised to include questions on the proper operation of repeaters. In the amateur service, each license class has specific privileges. The distinction between the Novice and Technician Class would be diminished by granting Novices the proposed repeater privileges. We will not, therefore, adopt the proposed rule changes in

this respect."

## The new Part 97 rules

Effective February 1, 1994, the following will replace existing amateur service rules:

### \$97.201 Auxiliary station

(b) An auxiliary station may transmit only on the 1.25 m and shorter wavelength frequency bands, except **the 222-222.15 MHz**, 431-433 MHz, and 435-438 MHz segments.

### \$97.205 Repeater station

(b) A repeater may receive and transmit only on the 10 m and shorter wavelength bands except the 28.0-29.5 MHz, 50.0-51.0 MHz, 144.0-144.5 MHz, 145.5-146.0 MHz, **222.00-222.15 MHz**, 431.0-433.0 MHz and 435.0-438.0 MHz segments.

The entry under VHF in Section 97.301(f) is amended by revising the frequencies authorized for use by Novice Class operators in ITU Region 2 to read as follows:

### \$97.301 Authorized frequency bands

(f) For a station having a control operator holding a Novice Class operator license:

Wavelength band	ITU Region 1	ITU Region 2	ITU Region 3	Sharing requirements See §97.303
VHF	MHz.	MHz.	MHz.	paragraph:
1.25 m	--	<b>222-225 MHz</b>	--	(a)

## CORRECTED THIRD PARTY TRAFFIC LIST

A typographical error crept into our list of countries that have made the necessary arrangements with the U.S. to permit an amateur station regulated by the FCC to exchange messages for a third party. The complete list should have read:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Liberia, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, St. Christopher and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (special event stations with call sign prefix GB followed by a number other than 3), Uruguay and Venezuela. (Also UN stations: 4U1ITU/Geneva and 4U1VIC/Vienna.)

Note that third party message traffic with Cuba is still intact. The information appearing in our last issue concerning Cuba being eliminated from the list proved incorrect.



## CODE-FREE HF HAMMING SURVEY IN THE UK

**Radio Communication** is the official journal of the *Radio Society of Great Britain* (RSGB), England's primary Amateur Radio association. Their Dec. 1993 issue carries a very interesting survey on British views on whether Morse code should be a requirement for access to the HF amateur bands.

The survey was a result of a request by the UK Radiocommunications Agency to conduct a "...consultation exercise." The RA is their government telecommunications department similar to our FCC. The task of seeking views was passed to the RSGB's HF Committee. "Clearly without a Morse test the likely increase in HF activity would affect HF operators" the story correctly concludes.

To complete the survey, the RSGB sent a press release to other UK amateur radio magazines with a deadline for response. A total of 1,413 replies were received - admittedly a small percentage of the 60,000 UK licensed amateurs. Even so, it was still more than expected. Every letter was read. Some replies were simple - others ran to six or seven pages.

The raw data indicates that "...there is a two-to-one majority in favor of retaining the Morse test as a means of access to the amateur bands below 30 MHz." Of interest, however, is the fact "...that the majority of those wanting to retain the Morse code were Class A (telegraphy proficient) licensees and the majority wishing to do away with the Morse test were Class B (predominately no code) amateurs.

### **Those who voted for code retention argued that:**

- (1) Abolishing the code would reduce the status of the amateur service;
- (2) Standards had already dropped and they do not wish to see a further erosion;
- (3) Abandoning the code would lead to a reduction in the challenge of amateur radio and a lowering of standards. The training process requires a "...degree of struggle which is a measurement of commitment." And more commitment translates out to better on-the-air behavior;
- (4) Morse is an important part of ham radio's tradition. "...those who call for change to make the license easier to obtain have less interest in amateur radio and simply wish for more privileges with less work";
- (5) Morse is an inexpensive way to communicate "...especially or beginners and those in developing countries..."
- (6) Morse "...provides the only true common language between radio amateurs..."
- (7) By far, however, was the fear that the HF bands would become congested. The bands above 30 MHz (due to "frequency reuse") are more adaptable to codefree hamming. "Because of the scarce and therefore rather precious nature of the HF bands ...it is necessary to have some restraint on their use."
- (8) "...overcrowding tends to lead to bad behavior because of frustration... Currently the World amateur population is some 2.4 million with a growth rate of 7% per annum.

...Given that the amount of spectrum available to the amateur service below 30 MHz is unlikely to increase at the rate of growth of amateur operators, it does seem that some limit must be placed on access to these bands..."

- (9) "...Morse code is an enjoyable art form... Morse may not be the fastest means of communication but to use it skillfully is very worthwhile for the individual."
- (10) "Many SSB operators believe that if the Morse test were abandoned, overcrowding of the SSB bands would lead to a loss of usable CW spectrum which is presently maintained through voluntary band plans."
- (11) Abandoning the Morse test would lead to cancellation of reciprocal operating agreements with other nations.

Also Morse is more efficient (narrower bandwidth), easier to copy at lower signal strength, simple (non-complex), effective with low power, understood internationally due to Q-codes and the lowest common denominator for emergency communications.

### **Those who wished to see the introduction of a code-free HF license said:**

- (1) The Morse test is seen as a barrier to those who would take up amateur radio. "Eliminating the Morse test would open up the hobby to far more people who in turn would insure its future growth."
- (2) The Morse test discourages many young people who would bring their computer and associated interests to the hobby.
- (3) "...the demise of Morse code in the commercial world of radio indicates that Morse is no longer relevant in the amateur environment..."
- (4) Crowded bands would necessarily lead to advances in technology;
- (5) "There should be no need to qualify in something which an individual never expects to make use of. ...Morse code, like any other mode should attract people by its merits."
- (6) There should not be a practical test for one mode and not others. "Dropping Morse code does not prevent those so inclined from learning it..."
- (7) Some people simply can not learn the code or have no aptitude for it. It is a problem for disabled persons. The code requirement discriminates unfairly.
- (8) Some countries (such as Japan) operate HF with reduced privileges. "This has given rise to a very large amateur population in Japan."
- (9) The code is being retained because those who have already passed the code do not want to feel that something can be had for nothing.
- (10) It should be possible to obtain a license for certain modes only.

The UK has two grades of license (Novice - both code and no code - and Full) and many British amateurs would welcome additional grades with various sets of qualifications so that each individual could decide which privileges they want. The RSGB is in the process of considering a system of incentive licensing.